

**Changes to Wilmington City Charter
1740-1901
(From the *Public Laws of North Carolina*)**

1740

Wilmington chartered as Newton.

February 1, 1866 (partially repealed)

- Wilmington incorporated
- Mayor and 8 Aldermen eligible for office if: native or naturalized citizen; 25 years old; resident of city for 1 year prior to election; freeholder of property valued at \$1,000 for 6 months prior to election; resident of ward represented for 6 months prior to election
- Mayor and Aldermen elected by voters, two aldermen from each ward and city-wide election for Mayor. Mayor's salary no more than \$2,000
- Meet at least monthly
- Marshal and Deputy appointed by Aldermen. Marshal's salary no more than \$2,000. Deputy salary no more than \$1,200. Clerk and Treasurer appointed by Aldermen. Salary for each no more than \$1,500.
- City divided into 4 wards
- Qualified voters: Eligible to vote in state elections; resident of city for 6 months; resident of ward for 30 days; OR owner of property valued at \$2,000 can vote in ward where property is located
- Annual elections for one year terms; first election to be held 1866 and terms of aldermen to be staggered with 50% rotation yearly; vacancies filled by vote among aldermen to fill spot

December 18, 1868 (partially repealed in 1870)

- Section 13, 2-1-1866 amended
- Section 14, 2-1-1866 repealed
- Creation of a special court for city and creation of a position for a Special Magistrate to oversee the court (all repealed 12-20-1870)
- Sheriff to replace City Marshal for tax collection (partially repealed 12-3-1873)
- Officers appointed by Board of Aldermen and Mayor serve at their will
- Sections 10-23 untouched re: Board of Assessors for taxation and management of public schools in city
- Elections to be held annually on 1st Monday in January for one year term and until successors qualified. Two aldermen elected from each of four wards and will hold one year terms with first year seeing one set of aldermen hold office for 2 years so as to stagger board rotation. (repealed 12-20-1870)
- Section 17 of Act of Incorporation (2-1-1866) for city repealed (repealed 12-20-1870)
- Duty of Aldermen to appoint ward Registrars to open registration books for 5 days preceding Sunday before elections. (repealed 12-20-1870)
- Section 5 of Act of Incorporation (2-1-1866) amended: voters to vote for Mayor and Aldermen on one slip of paper to be placed in a box at polling site. (repealed 12-20-1870)

March 26, 1870 (repealed 12-20-1870)

- 3-14-1870 act to define city limit extended from Wilmington & Weldon Railroad to Campbell Street; next election to be held in January, 1871 instead of August
- Number of Aldermen increased to 10 from 8

December 20, 1870

- Corporate limits of city described
- City divided into 5 wards with boundaries defined in text